

**Subject:** Weekly Brief for February 8th, 2017

**From:** LADOT Communications Office

**Date:** 02/08/2017 03:13 PM

**To:**

## WEEKLY BRIEF

**LADOT**



### Avenue 51 & Figueroa Traffic Signal Activation

A 'hundred points of light' adorn school children's heads as they inaugurate a new signal in CD 1 last week. Councilmember Gil Cedillo is joined by Dan Mitchell, LADOT Assistant General Manager for Project Delivery and Operations and, Mehrdad Moshksar, Chief Engineer for Central District Office, for the signal turn-on.

### LA Chamber of Commerce Presentation

The Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce's Transportation and Goods Movement Council hosted former LADOT Transportation Technology Fellow, Ashley Hand. Attendees were briefed on her report, "Urban Mobility in a Digital Age" which highlights the need to deploy and support an ecosystem of advanced technologies to create great streets for all Angelenos. To learn more see our report [here](#).

### News You Can Use

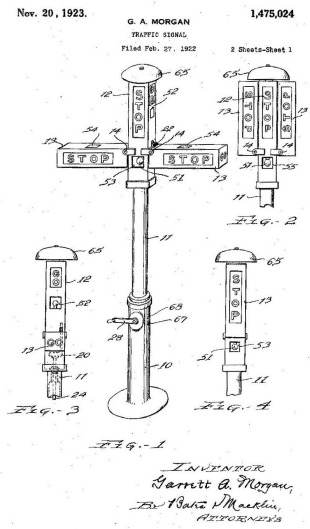


**GARRETT A. MORGAN** in later life, with son Garrett A. Morgan, Jr. (left) and grandson, Garrett A. Morgan III.

In 1923, the U.S. Patent Office granted a patent to Garrett Morgan for his three-position traffic signal. Though Morgan's was not the first traffic signal (that one had been installed in London in 1868), it was an important American innovation nonetheless. By having a third position besides just "Stop" and "Go," it regulated crossing vehicles more safely than earlier signals had.

The first American-made automobiles were introduced to consumers just before the turn of the twentieth century and pedestrians, bicycles, animal-drawn wagons and motor vehicles all had to share the same roads. To deal with the growing problem of traffic collisions, a number of versions of traffic signaling devices began to be developed, starting around 1913, an African-

American inventor and community leader, had witnessed a serious crash at an intersection one day, and later he filed a patent for a traffic control device in 1922.



### LADOT Supports Engineering Job Fair

The Los Angeles chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Younger Member Forum hosted its 18th annual Student Night and Job Fair. Companies and firms from across the metropolitan area interacted with students from 11 local universities many of whom received awards and scholarships on February 3rd at LA Live. Principal Engineer, Zaki Mustafa, was the keynote speaker. He was recognized for mentoring countless engineering students and staff while serving with the Institute of Transportation Engineers and throughout his 32 year career with LADOT.

### Who We Are:

Bearj Sarkis is in charge of the Bridge Improvement Program & DWP Unit, and is responsible for providing design services and construction oversight to both Bureau of Engineering Bridge Program and LADWP Water Trunk Line projects.

Bearj Leon Sarkis, Ph.D., P.E., P.T.O.E. - Transportation Engineer, Bridge Program



This highly specialized design/construction group is comprised of creative and enthusiastic traffic engineers who are dedicated to working in a team environment delivering projects from inception to completion. This includes preparation of complex roadway and geometric design plans, multi-stage construction staging plans and signal plans. Since 2003, the group has provided and managed the design and construction services for over 65 completed and ongoing bridges including the 1st. St. Viaduct, Glendale-Hyperion bridges, Soto/Mission Bridge Removal and the iconic 6th St. Viaduct. This group also specializes in roundabout designs such as the recently completed one on Riverside Drive and the upcoming Cesar Chavez roundabout.

Due to the complex nature and size of the projects, the group is responsible for coordinating and collaborating work within LADOT's other Bureaus and Divisions such as District Offices, ATSAC, Signal Design, Active Transportation Div., Field Operations and Parking Enforcement. The group also coordinates with various city departments, government agencies and elected officials.

Bearj's group delivers safe, innovative, and high quality designs that meet both clients' schedule and public needs. As a dedicated public servant, Bearj makes a difference in

improving people's livability and safety through his creative, flexible and innovative designs. He is equally focused on training and producing our future leaders for LADOT.

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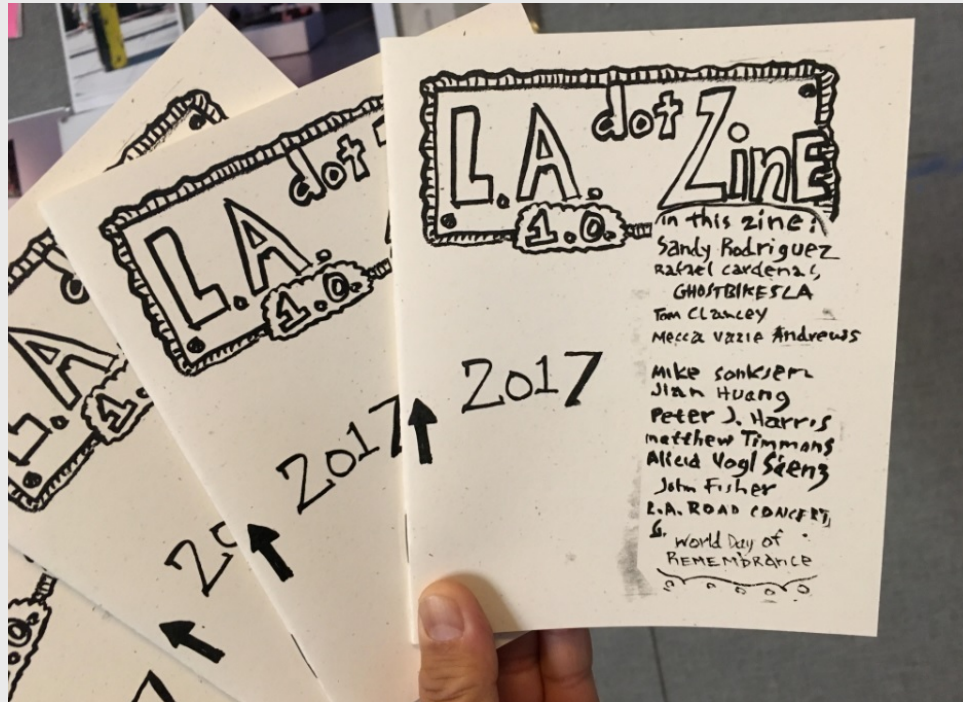
#### Grammy Awards This Weekend

Please be advised that the Grammy Awards is taking place this Sunday, February 12, 2017.

Street closures begin as early as 2:00 AM. Expect delays and congestion in and around the event area in downtown Los Angeles. See the [Traffic Management Plan](#) here for further details.

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#### LADOT Zine



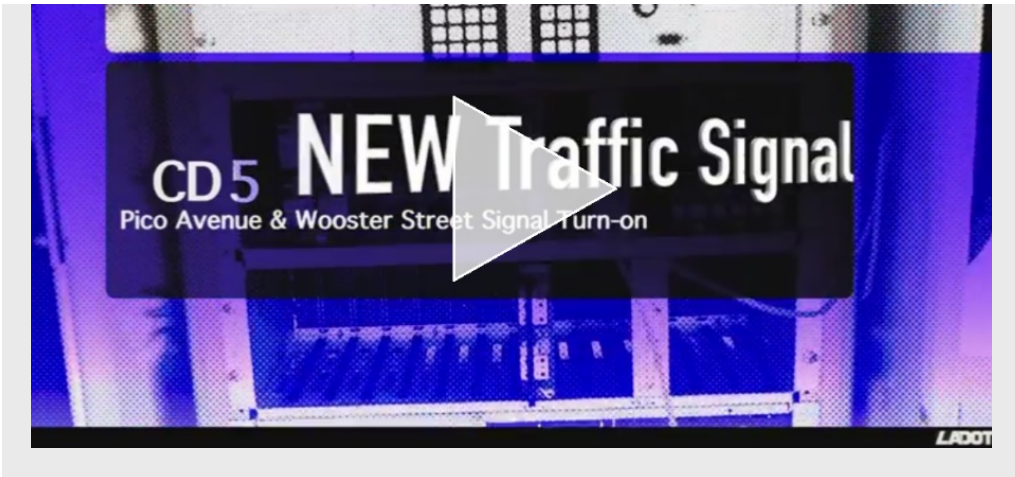
Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence, Alan Nakagawa has produced a series of art projects including LA Dot Zine 1.0., LADOT's first ever zine. For the creation of this zine, Nakagawa invited a small group of LA-based writers, poets, photographers and painters to respond to the issue of pedestrian safety. It's a creative way to bring attention to LA's critical need for traffic awareness and safety. Here is the [full schedule](#).

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#### LADOT Video: Two New Traffic Signals on Pico Blvd

Watch CD 5 Councilmember Paul Koretz turn-on a new signal at Pico Blvd and S. Wooster St. Along with another new traffic signal at Pico Blvd and S. Bedford St. these two signals default on Saturdays to 'Sabbath' control, meaning they will automatically cycle through so that people do not have to push any buttons to activate the signal in order to reach their places of worship.





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